

MEDIA FAIRNESS CAUCUS

A Look at Media Bias

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Pew Survey: More Viewers Note Media Bias

From a new survey by the Pew Research Center...

“With a contested primary in only one party this year, **fewer Americans are closely following news about the presidential campaign than four years ago.** As a consequence, long-term declines in the number of people getting campaign news from such sources as local TV and network news have steepened, and even the number gathering campaign news online, which had nearly tripled between 2000 and 2008, has leveled off in 2012.

The survey finds that the number saying there is a great deal of political bias in the news has risen to a new high.... **Currently, 37% of Americans say there is a great deal of bias in news coverage and 30% say there is a fair amount of bias.** Far fewer see not too much bias (21%) or none at all (10%). The percentage saying there is a great deal of bias has increased six points, from 31% to 37%, since 2008.”

Media Tricks on Polling Exposed

From Townhall...

“The White House and the media were ecstatic about Friday’s BLS unemployment report, which showed the national jobless rate dropping to 8.3 percent, as the US economy added 243,000 jobs. These should be welcome results for all Americans, CBO’s harrowing 2012 economic projections notwithstanding. **Although the headlines were uniformly positive, reality isn’t quite as cheery. Leftist Paul Krugman notes that long-term unemployment remains historically persistent, the U-6 “real” unemployment rate still floats above 15 percent, and -- most distressingly -- the labor force continues to contract....**

....Indeed, WaPo/ABC’s numbers have been raked over the coals by conservatives in the past for their ludicrously unbalanced party ID samples. **This pollster has displayed an interesting habit of surveying far more Democrats than Republicans, which -- surprise! -- produces favorable data for Democrats. Rather than be held to account for their questionable methods, WaPo/ABC has simply decided to hide their methodology from the public altogether.** Which reminds me: I’d like to announce the release of a new nationwide poll of likely voters that shows Barack Obama’s approval rating falling to 36 percent. This survey reveals that Obama would lose to every possible Republican opponent by at least seven points. Whom did this pollster question, you ask? It’s my policy to adhere to the Washington Post/ABC News precedent and not release that data. But by all means, please talk about these important findings ad nauseam on television and radio.”

Journalists Not Interested in Facts

From Big Journalism...

“Polk Award-Winning Rolling Stone writer Michael Hastings made a startling set of admissions on CSPAN, recently. Not only did he admit that most ‘journalists’ are liberals, but he implied that they really aren’t interested in just reporting the facts of stories. Instead he said they are filled with a liberal ‘moralistic righteousness’ and their goal is to ‘afflict’ those they disagree with.... Not much “objectivity” going on there, is there?

....Now, **you might recall Mr. Hastings as the man whose 2010 Rolling Stone article eventually led to the firing of General Stanley McChrystal....**many might have questioned Hastings’ actions by actually publishing those unguarded and casual, off-record conversations. It smacked of agenda or “gotcha journalism.”

But as we see in this interview, as far as Hastings is concerned, that is what journalists are supposed to do. **They are supposed to approach their work with a “moralistic” agenda guiding them. They aren’t supposed to just publish the facts and let readers decide. They are supposed to “afflict the powerful” and that with all the left-wing political ideology such a crusade implies.”**

*Distributed by Congressman Lamar Smith. For regular e-mail updates, please visit <http://lamar.smith.house.gov>
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